

Patent Application No. 10/003,091
Art Unit: 2157

Attorney Docket No.: 2000-0600A

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

26. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient device, the multi-media message being created by a sender and including a talking entity delivering a sender message, the method comprising:

determining whether a recipient device has rendering software for delivering a video portion of the multi-media message;

if the recipient device does not have rendering software, streaming the multimedia message from a server such that a generic rendering software device will deliver the multi-media message;

determining whether the recipient device has speech synthesis software associated with a voice requested by the sender;

if the recipient device does not have the speech synthesis software, synthesizing audio at the server and streaming the audio to the recipient jointly with the available rendering software;

if the recipient device does have the speech synthesis software and the requested voice is available, synthesizing the voice at the recipient device and delivering the voice jointly with the available rendering software; and

if there is the recipient device does have the speech synthesis software but the requested voice is not available, synthesizing the voice at the recipient device and delivering downloading the voice jointly with the available rendering software to the recipient device and synthesizing the voice at the recipient device.

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27. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering a multi-media message to a recipient, the multi-media message being created by a sender and including a talking entity delivering a sender message, the method ~~further~~ comprising:

determining whether the recipient device has rendering software for delivering a video portion of the multi-media message;

if the recipient device does not have rendering software, streaming the multi-media message from a server such that a generic rendering software device will deliver the multi-media message;

determining whether the recipient device has speech synthesis software associated with a voice requested by the sender;

if the recipient device does not have the speech synthesis software, synthesizing audio at the server and streaming the audio to the recipient jointly with the available rendering software; ~~and~~

if the recipient device does have the speech synthesis software and the requested voice is available, creating an intermediate representation of the voice at the server that the speech synthesis software uses to render the requested voice; and

if the recipient device does have the speech synthesis software and the requested voice is not available, synthesizing the voice at a server and streaming the voice jointly with the video rendered from the available rendering software.

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28-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A system for delivering a multi-media message to a recipient device, the multi-media message being created by a sender and including a talking entity delivering a sender message, the system comprising:

a module configured to determine whether a recipient device has rendering software for delivering a video portion of the multi-media message;

a module configured to stream the multi-media message from a server such that a generic rendering software device will deliver the multi-media message if the recipient device does not have rendering software;

a module configured to determine whether the recipient device has speech synthesis software associated with a voice requested by the sender;

a module configured to synthesize audio at the server and streaming the audio to the recipient jointly with the available rendering software if the recipient device does not have the speech synthesis software;

a module configured to synthesize the voice at the recipient device and delivering the voice jointly with the available rendering software if the recipient device does have the speech synthesis software and the requested voice is available; and

if the recipient device includes the synthesis software and the requested voice is not available at the recipient device, the [[a]] module configured to synthesize the voice is included at the recipient device and is further configured to receive the voice downloaded from the server and delivering the voice jointly with the available rendering software if there is speech synthesis software but the requested voice is not available.